

Message Text

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22

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5975

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSH COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

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TAGS: PFOR,BE,UR

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP TO BELGIAN DEFENSE MINISTER'S SPEECH ON EUROPEAN
SECURITY AND DETENTE

REF: BRUSSELS 1031

1. BELGIAN DEFENSE MINISTER VANDEN BOEYNANTS (VDB) GAVE AN INTER-
VIEW TO PRO-GOVERNMENT, CONSERVATIVE, CATHOLIC
LA LIBRE BELGIQUE, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 2.
HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERVIEW, WHICH WAS FOLLOWUP TO SPEECH (REFTEL)
FOLLOW (EMBASSY TRANSLATION):

2. "IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF AN ANTI-COMMUNIST FEVER. I AM
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AND REMAIN A CONVINCED PARTISAN OF DETENTE

AND DIALOGUE. BUT AT THE SAME TIME I AM CONCERNED
BEYOND MEASURE TO SEE THE SHALLOWNESS TO THE POINT OF
UNCONSCIOUSNESS OF PUBLIC OPINION, AND ALSO OF
THAT OF A CERTAIN NUMBER OF WESTERN LEADERS, AS TO THE MANNER IN
WHICH THEY CONCEIVE OF THE REALITY OF DETENTE.
(RE SOVIET AGGRESSIVENESS AND EXPANSIONISM.)
IS IT DETENTE TO PRODUCE TACTICAL FIGHTERS WHICH OUTNUMBER THOSE
OF NATO BY 70 PERCENT? WHEN IT IS KNOWN THAT THE USSR HAS IN RECENT
YEARS BUILT FOUR TIMES AS MANY WARSHIPS AS THE US? WHEN EQUIPMENT
FOR LAND FORCES CONTINUES TO GROW BY A PROPORTION OF SEVEN OR
EIGHT TO ONE? WHEN THE SOVIET UNION ESTABLISHES A NEW BRIDGEHEAD
IN ANGOLA BY WHICH IT PASSES 60 PERCENT OF EUROPE'S OIL? IN 1939
HITLER ALSO MADE SPEECHES ON DETENTE, BUT HIS ACTIONS REVEALED
FACTS CONTRARY TO HIS STATEMENTS (RE SCHLESINGER) I MUST REMIND YOU
THAT WHEN HE BECAME SEDEF SOME NATO MILITARY CIRCLES WERE IN
A PANIC BECAUSE THEY CONSIDERED HIM TO BE A PACIFIST DOVE.
IF HE CHANGED, IT IS BECAUSE HE OBSERVED THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE
DECEIVING HIM AND DID NOT OBSERVE THE ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENTS
THEY HAD SIGNED. (COMMENTING ON THE DUAL PHENOMENA
OF SOVIET AGGRESSIVENESS AND POSSIBLE US ISOLATIONISM.)
THE USSR DESPITE ITS DECLARATIONS OF GOOD INTENT IS REARMING
INTENSIVELY, WHILE THE US IS DISORIENTED BY WATERGATE, VIET-NAM AND THE

EVENTS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE US IS THUS TEMPTED TO TURN INWARDS.
AT THE PRESENT TIME, AMERICAN WILLINGNESS TO DEFEND EUROPE CAN-
NOT BE QUESTIONED. BUT IF THE EUROPEANS PERSIST IN NOT BEING
WILLING TO DEFEND THEMSELVES, I AM CONVINCED THAT THE AMERICAN

REACTION WILL BE TO WITHDRAW TO THE DEFENSE OF THE AMERICAN
CONTINENT AND NOTHING MORE. (WHICH LEADS YOU TO URGE A MILITARY
AS WELL AS POLITICAL UNION OF EUROPE.) YES. IF
THERE IS A MENACE IT IS FROM THE EAST. AFTER
ALL IT IS NOT OUR TANKS WHICH CRUSHED THE WORKERS
IN BERLIN AND PRAGUE. (ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE
SOCIALIST PARTIES OF SOUTHERN EUROPE TOWARD THEIR COUNTRIES'
COMMUNIST PARTIES.) I CAN UNDERSTAND THEIR
ATTITUDE AS AN ELECTORAL TACTIC. FUNDAMENTALLY, HOWEVER, IT IS A
MAJOR ERROR OF WHICH THE SOUTHERN SOCIALISTS WILL BE THE VICTIMS.
THEY SHOULD RE-READ THE ADVENTURES OF KERENSKY." VDB THEN RETOLD THE
CHINESE PARABLE OF THE LADY AND THE TIGER. (IN CONCLUSION)
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"I WILL LIMIT MYSELF TO QUOTING A FEW PHRASES FROM SOLZHENITSYN'S
SPEECH TO AMERICAN LABOR LEADERS IN WASHINGTON. THE WORLD
SITUATION IS CATASTROPHIC. FOR 30 YEARS, WESTERN DEMOCRACIES HAVE
CONSISTENTLY CARRIED OUT A POLICY OF RETREAT AND ABANDON. THE
US HAS SERVED AS THE SHIELD FOR EUROPE WHILE THESE COUNTRIES
COUNTED THEIR PENNIES AND SOUGHT WAYS NOT TO PAY FOR THEIR ARMIES OR
EVEN NOT TO HAVE AN ARMY AT ALL AND TO QUIT NATO, KNOWING
THAT THE US WOULD DEFEND THEM IN ANY CASE. THE SOVIET UNION

HAS USED DETENTE FOR ITS OWN PROFIT,CONTINUES TO DO SO STILL,
AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. COMMUNIST LEADERS RESPECT ONLY
FIRMNESS. THEY HAVE ONLY CONTEMPT AND MOCKERY FOR THOSE WHO GIVE
IN TO THEM CONSTANTLY.IT IS NOT I WHO SAID THIS: IT WAS SOLZHENITSYN."

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